

COMPARISON OF THE ORAL HISTORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TOTALITARIAN COMMUNIST REGIME WITH THE DOCUMENTS OF THE REPRESSIVE BODIES OF THE LATVIAN SSR

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The paper deals with two types of historical sources as possible comparative history research. From one hand - the Latvian National Archives Latvian State archives of the former Latvian SSR KGB archive documents group: KGB criminal, administrative proceedings and Exiles-filtration case is a judicial investigations and litigation-type documents. On the other hand - the oral, or oral history (often used expressions: "Oral History", "Oral History Sources", "Life Stories", "Memories" – A.B.) sources - human memory (both published and unpublished, manuscripts, audio and video recordings etc.) that is stored in various Latvian institutions: Archives and oral history centres, libraries, and many museums.

Traditionally, studying both the Communist and Nazi crimes committed by totalitarian regimes researchers used different sources of direct comparison method, which allows move closer to the truth of the history. The authors, in studying the Soviet repressive regime documents, usually in relation with: following historical sources: 1) KPFSR Criminal Code (1926-th version) 2) Soviet Union (Latvian SSR) government authority (the Communist Party, the legislative power, executive power and national security structures) documents, 3) the witness - former repressed persons memories. In this report a little more than oral history, namely, - repressed memories of persons and the Latvian experience.

Oral history is a qualitative inquiry method of humanities and social sciences. Memories and life stories is a source of information. They show their time sensitive issues, draws attention to the default and distort historical facts, gives the name to transparency, not reached voices. Therefore, the accumulation becomes the most important of the current task.

First stage. Memory scientific recording began Latvian museum staff, who often went to summer expeditions. The process began in the 20th century 70 th , of course, during the Soviet era people avoided to talk about the political repression. A lot of repressed, of course, memory and Gulag camps suffered, wrote home secretly from foreign eyes, and the general public knew about it (Except for the Latvian SSR KGB, which in many cases, this type of records seized during the search).

A month ago (8.01.2011.) journalist Anda Buševica in the author's program "Top of the land"¹ Latvian Radio-1, in which were invited public figures, spoke Latvian National Oral History collection coordinator Māra Zirnīte and cultural sociologist Dagmāra Beitnere.

M. Zirnīte as a former museum employee in the end of 70th together with photographer Vaira Strautniece first heard a forester Ernests Mūrnieks bricklayer life stories in the village "Lūžņi" and its citizens lives (a village of 30 houses at that time was near the Ventspils). Forester life story was also recorded in the Recorder. There was also news of the crackdown. Now village "Lūžņi" not actually exist in the nature, but it continues to live in down written memories ...

70 to 80s, recording Latvian memory were fragmented kind and Soviet ideological orientations.

The second stage was "perestroika" Latvian time, resulting in the Latvian third ATMODA (Awakening), when people began to talk more freely about experienced during the war, the first and second Soviet occupation. Especially a lot of memory on the topic of repression, from 1987 to 1990, received the Latvian National Front Center. Currently, a small fraction of those holds in the museum of the People's Front, but a large part of that in the Latvian National Archives Latvian State Archives and Archives held in Fund Nr.1701.² In 1988 the Latvian Culture Foundation, led by the poet Imants Ziedonis urged Latvian residents to send to fond memories. It was the first major oral history repository "Cilvēkarhīvs" (The archive of People) with several hundred memory records.³ Currently, it has evolved into the Latvian University of Philosophy and Sociology Institute of the National Oral History Collection.⁴

Cultural sociologist D. Beitnere believes that the life stories are important at times of crises and cataclysms, and recognizes that they have become the modern folklore. Today's students about the Soviet time knows, that there was a terror during the Soviet era, but there was also a "real life", but how it was knows hardly any. The scientist acknowledges that the Latvian oral history finds its true meaning only now, today, when the remaining life of the teller memory has become very little.⁵

The third stage. 20th / 21st's Eve when first shows up signs of research publications and monographs. Most of them are sociologists and philosophers studies of national identity, the Latvian cultural phenomenon and other aspects.⁶

Historians have seriously started repressed persons memory comparison with University of Daugavpils professor Irena Saleniece compiled and Oral History Centre prepared a compendium in which are published oral history sources and the Latvian State Archives, documents which show a 1949 deportation in Daugavpils and Ilūkstes districts.⁷

Repressed person's memories. Documents or group of sources, which are comparable with Latvian SSR NKVD (NKGB) 1940th-1941 of criminal, administrative Exiles cases and postwar test-filtering case cited as a historical source, a memory.

First of all, the former repressed and those that survived eyewitness memory. Of course, the memories are subjective, and they have a number of weaknesses (bias, memory, time sensitive

correspondence, and other ratings), but they reveal the true picture of events, living conditions in detention and deportation, and a source of research can bring a lot of new nuances.

Since Latvian independence, Latvian has published a relatively large 1940th-1941 in the Soviet security organs arrested and sent to the Latvian population memory range. They are different genres and forms, published as separate works, memories, memory, collections, and publications in the press.⁸

The memories in the comparison with the Latvian NKVD 1940th-1941 of criminal, administrative Exiles Affairs and test-filtering the source files are essential for researchers or relevant in cases where the need for a historical reconstruction, source research conjecture or hypothesis test cases. In other words, when source researcher law enforcement authorities archival document texts, often in the space between lines of text asks a series of questions.

For example, a person's arrest or detention, while the circumstances in which it occurred (not all criminal arrest warrants on the other side of an arrested person's signature, that the warrant has been notified). The author is close to the Latvian army officers repressed theme, so give you snippets of the officers' memories.

Captain Jānis Pāparde testimony about his arrest:

“Edge of the woods stood the soldiers with rifles. Regimental Commander Ivanov put us all in the ranks and went to report to Division Commander Colonel Frolova, that the regiment officers arrived to the training. Then Frolov said a lieutenant colonel, "Give order!". It pulled out a gun and shouted us "Hands up!" At the same moment, the soldiers ran up and each of us to face end to bayonets, and Chekists officers from the back took us guns, stripped of money and even my family photos ... then escort drove us to the car, took us to the station and sat in the cattle cars by 40 people .”⁹

But the officers' arrest of the 195th Infantry Regiment remembers Norillag V. Veldre: *"... In that moment of arrival of the commander on the back plug on the three-barrel pistols us back and between the shoulder blades, ... some kind of resistance was completely hopeless Were deprived of everything that every moment was at the pockets, even handkerchiefs went to the Russian pockets ... everything was kidnapped”¹⁰.*

Also for the source researchers it is important to know under what conditions originating from the accused person in a criminal interrogation records (it is no secret that in many cases, during interrogation has taken place in physical or moral coercion with inhuman coercive methods). For example, the researcher can be concluded, seeing the minutes of questioning, the fixed time? Interrogation started at. 14:45, finished at midnight, Lasted 9 hours (!), But the protocol is written in a few pages, which can be seen below interrogation persons very bad Signature ...

First Lieutenant of the V. Veldre memories: *"Immediately to his questions I answered with one answer: "Give the interpreter." Such a response irritated this sadist and he started his "cacons" dancing around me, accompanied by blows with the Nagano handles on the neck and leg strikes, which casually ... I constantly repeat, "Give the interpreter" ... it ended up that night in the middle I was taken to the barracks with the emoluments bruises and neck and the femur. "*¹¹

In such cases, if possible to compare the existing criminal interrogation protocols written by memories - of different sources for direct comparison method can provide source researcher answers to vague questions, and sources **figuratively speaking** - **"start talking"**.

Criminal cases in most cases does not provide answers for the person to be heard physical coercion during interrogation, in these cases, the repressed memory of persons¹² to the sources researcher provide invaluable assistance.

To the source researcher is bound to explore other conditions of detainees and deportees litigation, maintenance of conditions of detention, conditions of other adjacent to, the registration procedures for places of isolation, release from prison and places of isolation¹³ which is also supported by the national security officials a document written in the present case, the origin, direction, etc..

KGB criminal, administrative Exiles Affairs and test-case filtering in the source research such practices were repressed memories of the person (unless the case is preserved) are of great practical importance of a particular issue or problems.

Also worth comparing is the same in criminal matters, administrative matters and the Exiles filtering cases can be found in "material evidence": diaries, notes, resistance member's flyers, magazines, aphorisms, etc. They are sometimes assisted by a fuller and more meaningful to ascertain the reliability, but few explore the facts, events, and the fate of interest to researchers.¹⁴

In assessing the background, the KGB document as a historical source of a set of comparability with other sources, it appears, however, that serious scientific research concerning the use of this document, the researcher should use all his available sources. Based in other Latvian archives, Archives documents, as far as possible, whenever possible, the press, which is closely linked to the KGB set of documents to use the research topic and so on.

And found that the KGB criminal, administrative Exiles things and filtration, however, things are legal documents on the parties. In the personal data are inaccurate and incomplete. It is important in such cases should be used to compare the Latvian State Historical Archives (official bodies) a person of the Foundation.¹⁵

Biographical nature of the studies only confirms this true.¹⁶

In general for the KGB and Interior Ministry document as a historical source of comparability with human memories as historical sources, we can conclude the following:

First, the Latvian experience shows that the oral history collection in the country took place in several stages, up to date political forces. On the system, it became the 20th century 90-s at the start of the Latvian national independence, when a variety of institutions called for citizens to write to memory and to transfer its oral history collections. Also, loggers, memory repressed persons life stories began to write professionally. In recent years, a serious politically repressed persons' memory store formed the Latvian Occupation Museum.

Second, researchers studying the history of repression of history, would need to use the USSR's leading public body documents to compare with oral history sources, despite the fact that the Soviet leadership structure of the documents in full for a wide range of research is still in most cases is unavailable or on subject to restrictions, and the Russian special services in the archives.¹⁷

Third, the sources of oral history - a politically repressed persons' memories is a unique and valuable source of information, where the Soviet KGB and NKVD documents internal and external sources of criticism and analysis does not provide answers to research questions. On the memory, in spite of its subjectivity, shows the true Soviet Communist totalitarian nature of the repressive regime, people suffered Gulag camps and exile.



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¹ Radio programm "Dzīvesstāsts.lv" Latvian Radio-1 show "Top of the land" - 8 January 2011.

² LNA, LVA, 1701.Fund "XX century. Latvian citizens repressed memory "of 1 and 2.descriptions.

³ Radio programm "Dzīvesstāsts.lv" Latvian Radio-1 show "Top of the land" - 8 January 2011.

⁴ <http://www.dzivesstasts.lv>: **Cilvēkarhīva** (People's archive) sign of the study the background of the Latvian Culture Foundation (LCF), where the 1988th was sought **Cilvēkarhīva** (People's archive) programm and made people write memory collection. 2008th The LCF **Cilvēkarhīvs** (People's archive) passed Fundamental Library of the Academy Misiņa section. Since 1992. collection development **project** continues **NMV** at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (now the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology). **NMV cilvēkarhīva** (People's archive) **collection includes** sound recordings memory format. The extent of the 2009th The author has reached 3000 entries.

⁵ Radioraidījums „Dzīvesstāsts.lv” Latvijas Radio-1 raidījums „Augstāk par zemi” – 2011.gada 8.janvāris.

⁶ See for example : Bormane D. **Life Daugavzemē space, place and identity of the reasoning.** Publication of the report and conference Acta Latgalica, Latgale Research Institute, 1997.; Bormane D. **House / home life topography: the idea and the Dialogue with the memory.** Books: The memory of the cultural context, 2. part. DPU izdevniecība "Saule", 2002., 91.-97.lpp.; Bela-Krūmiņa B., Zirnīte M. **Latvijas un trimdas dzīvesstāstu apvienotās kolekcijas tapšana.** Books: Konferences referātu krājums, 2000., Latvijas Valsts Arhīvs, 123.-128. lpp.; Bela-Krūmiņa B. **Kultūras nozīme latviskās identitātes uzturēšanā trimdā.** Books: Konferences "Trimda, kultūra, identitāte" rakstu krājums, PBLA KF, LVA, Nordik, Rīga, 2004., 528.-541. lpp.; Зирните М. **Границы, на карте начерченные, не существуют в воспоминаниях: Абренские жизнеописания.** Books: Балто славянские культурные связи. Сборник статей. Сост. Курсите, Я. Madris, Riga, 2009, с. 523.-541.; Milts A. **Totalitārisma un okupācijas paradoksi.** Journal.: Karogs, Nr. 6., 2001., 148.-155.lpp.; Elksne G. **Brīvības apliecinājums nebrīvē.** Books: Zirnīte M. (sast.) **Mirror: Latvijas mutvārdu vēsture.** Rīga: LU FSI, NMV, 2001., 86th-111. p., etc.

⁷ Saleniece I. March 25, 1949 deported voices. Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitātes Akadēmiskais apgāds „Saule”, 2008.- 400 lpp.; DU Mutvārdu vēstures centrs (MVC), DU Oral History Center founded 2 of December 2003. MVC action aim is to develop oral history of theoretical research and practical experience, through oral testimony and archival research institutions. Major themes: Eastern Latvia-population fixation of life, documentation and oral history sources archive creation in 20. century. Latvian history actual themes of (social history, the minority nationalities in the history of everyday life in history, Social Psychological atmosphere at different periods, etc.) sources of research-based development, including oral history sources, training of young researchers, international cooperation in the field of oral history. DU Oral History Center researchers have available a source of oral history archive of electronic catalogs (700 audio recordings, in part - the life of transcription, supporting material - photographs, documents, scans, etc.). For details, see: <http://du.lv/lv/fakultates/hf/strukturvienibas/centri/mvc>

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